

City of Lake Station

News March 2009

Indiana Department of Transportation

On March 11th 2009

- I 80/94 E. Ramp to I 65 N. closed thru Nov.
- I 65 S. Ramp to I 80/94 E. closed thru Nov.
- Central Off Ramp from I 80/94 E. closed thru Nov..

Utility Department Water/Sewer

Coming soon -- You will be able to view your account and pay online via web-site

lakestation-in.gov

Register your contact/email information on-line for future communications/emergencies.

Garbage Pick-up

Clarification The garbage fee covers the cost to pick up your garbage, regardless if a private company picks it up or if the City picks it up. The plan is to purchase our own state of the art equipment and cans keeping the cost at a minimum and feel that we can do a better job, employ Lake Station residents, and keep the cost down. The city has received two proposals for equipment and cans, which we are reviewing. More to come as we move forward.

Community Meetings coming soon

As your Mayor, it is my duty to communicate with the residents of our accomplishments and our challenges. Where we were, where we are, and where are we going. Please attend one of the scheduled meetings that will be posted on the sign as well as on the web-site @ lakestation-in.gov

Property TAX CUTS

Over the next two years each home owner will receive a 50% property tax cut. With this, Lake Stations tax revenues will be decreased by \$800,000 and must come up with ways to function and offset these shortfalls. I have cut the budget over \$2.3 million in an effort to have a balanced budget and get Lake Station on a path for a secure future.

Sewer Rate Study

A study has been completed on our city's sewer "infrastructure needs" as well as the cost's involved to operate and address our aging system. The study also covers the Gary Sanitation District lawsuit payment of \$720,000 per year.

We have "milked" our sewer system to the point of failure. Lift Stations of our system dates back to the 1960's and to my surprise -- with original obsolete parts. This is not just a road repair, we are talking about pumping systems that absolutely will continue to fail, its just a matter of time. These failures cause sewer back-ups in our residents homes and this is not acceptable. When a politician talks about any type of increase it is important to communicate as to the reasons why. I have taken an Oath to act in the best interest of the city and to make these tough decisions. I truly feel that no one in this city desires sewer back-ups, but in order to limit the amount of back-ups an increase is inevitable. Currently the ave. 5000 gal. user pays \$22.00. The study shows that the ave. 5000 gal. user should be paying \$43.00. Although this is needed, we decided this was too much to bear and have suggested a reduced rate for the ave. 5000 gal. user to \$35. This will get us on the right path to address the many issues facing our sewer department. IDEM has already informed Lake Station that we need to deal with these issues or face possible penalties as well as make the repairs needed.

Flood Update

This has been a challenge facing our community since our city's existence. We have started the flood mitigation project. This project will identify ways to displace high level river waters reducing flooding in residential areas. The project will also address river clean up, widening, dredging, as well as cleaning all of the culverts allowing the river water to flow. This project is covered through a \$500,000 grant the city received from Congressman Visclosky. More updates as we move forward.